



Council of the
European Union

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PECHE 53

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 24 January 2019
To: Delegations

Subject: Working Party on Internal and External Fisheries Policy:
I. GFCM
II. Mediterranean swordfish
III. NAFO
IV. EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products

I. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area**

- *Debrief of the trilogue on 22 January 2019*

1. The Presidency briefed the Working Party on the positive outcome of the political trilogue of 22 January 2019, noting that it had been quick and effective. All political and technical items had been solved within COREPER's mandate of 16 January 2019.
2. The Presidency informed the Working Party that the next step will be a technical meeting with the EP on 29 January 2019 for the clean-up of the consolidated version and the compromise text will go to COREPER for endorsement on February 2019.

II. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and amending Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006 and (EU) 2017/2107

- *Debrief of the trilogue on 22 January 2019*

1. The Working Party was debriefed on the successful outcome of the first and only trilogue held on 22 January 2019.
2. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party would revert shortly to this issue to examine the final compromise text with a view to an agreement.

III. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down conservation and control measures applicable in the regulatory area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2115/2005 and Council Regulation (EC) No 1386/2007

- *Examination of the EP amendments*

1. The Working Party examined the European Parliament's amendments as contained in document 5551/19.
2. The Commission representative referred to the possibility of including certain provisions of the bluefin tuna management plan agreed in November 2018 at ICCAT in the NAFO proposal for a quicker adoption. This would meet delegations' request of having the new plan entering into force as of June 2019 like for the other ICCAT Contracting Parties.
3. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had completed examination of the EP amendments. She further presented three questions to delegations on the EP's approach concerning Articles 52 and 54 and asked replies in writing by 29 January 2019¹.

¹ The questions were sent later that day to delegations in doc. 1108/19 INIT.

IV. EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products

- *Presentation by the Commission*

1. The Commission representative presented the main findings of a study² on EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products.

It is the second such survey carried out by the Commission; the first was presented in 2017. Based on a Eurobarometer opinion poll conducted in June and July 2018 in all member states, it is intended to help the industry adopt a more market-driven approach and thereby increase its competitiveness. The study assesses the eating and buying habits of consumers and their attitudes towards fish and seafood in general, as well as consumer preferences and the suitability of information presented on product labels.

The Commission representative offered to also make presentations in the member states.

2. ES, FR, DE and FI expressed their interest for the survey, in particular for trends observed since the initial survey. ES enquired whether seasonality (e.g. eating on holiday) had been taken into consideration as regards consumer habits
3. The Commission representative responded that seasonality had been taken into account, though as regards the structure of the survey (i.e. the season during which it was conducted) rather than the questions posed, and therefore took note of the suggestion.
4. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had been informed of the results of the survey.

² doc. WK 1241/19